

FOR NATIONAL PHASE SUBMISSION

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CLAIM AMENDMENTS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method for mounting at least one contact pin ~~(5)~~ on a sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~in particular a plastic sleeve~~, into which a piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ is inserted, ~~whereby comprising the steps of:~~

- providing at least one pin mount ~~(2)~~ ~~is provided~~ on the outer circumference at the upper and/or lower end of the sleeve ~~(4)~~ for the contact pin ~~(5)~~, and ~~whereby~~

- connecting the contact pin ~~(5)~~ ~~is connected~~ electrically by way of one or more contact wires ~~(6)~~ to the piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pin mount ~~(2)~~ is provided in the form of a detent connection, ~~whereby and~~ the detent connection is implemented such that the contact pin ~~(5)~~ is fixed in its position after insertion into the detent connection ~~(2)~~.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Method~~ A method ~~as claimed in~~ according to claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein an upper pin mount ~~(2)~~ is provided on the outer edge of the sleeve ~~(1)~~ and ~~that~~ the upper pin mount ~~(2)~~ has a wedge-shaped insertion aid ~~(2a)~~ by means of which the contact pin ~~(5)~~ can be inserted sideways into the pin mount ~~(2)~~ to lock into position.

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3. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the a lower pin mount-(2) has a support
-(4a) and ~~that~~ the support -(4a) secures the contact pin -(5)
against pressure from above.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the a lower pin mount -(2) has a guide
aid -(4) by means of which the contact pin -(5) can be inserted
sideways into the sleeve -(1).

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the a lower pin mount -(2) has an
arresting element -(3), which preferably takes the form of a
burl and thereby prevents the lower end of the contact pin -(5)
from falling out of the guide aid -(4).

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein Method as claimed in one of the preceding claims,
characterized in that the detent connection -(2) for the
contact pin -(5) is designed to be releasable.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1,
wherein Method as claimed in one of claims 1 to 5,
characterized in that the detent connection -(2) for the
contact pin -(5) is designed to be non-releasable.

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8. (Currently Amended) A sleeve for accommodating a piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~, ~~whereby~~ wherein the piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ is mounted inside the sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~characterized in that and~~ two contact pins ~~(5)~~ lying opposite one another are arranged on the outer circumference of the sleeve ~~(1)~~ parallel to the longitudinal axis in respective pin mounts, ~~which~~ wherein the contact pins are connected electrically by means of a plurality of contact wires ~~(6)~~ to a piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ situated in the sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, characterized in that~~ wherein the sleeve ~~(1)~~ has two pin mounts ~~(2)~~ ~~in each case~~ at its upper and its lower end faces ~~(10)~~ , respectively for fixing the two contact pins ~~(5)~~ and ~~that~~ the pin mounts ~~(2)~~ take the form of detent connections.

9. (Currently Amended) Sleeve ~~A sleeve as claimed in according to~~ claim 8, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the detent connections ~~(2)~~ of the sleeve ~~(1)~~ have a wedge-shaped insertion aid ~~(2a)~~ and/or guide aid ~~(4)~~ by means of which the contact pin ~~(5)~~ can be inserted sideways.

10. (Currently Amended) A sleeve according to claim 8, ~~wherein~~ Sleeve as claimed in one of claims 8 or 9, ~~characterized in that~~ the sleeve ~~(1)~~ is designed as a single part and as a plastic sleeve.

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11. ~~(Currently Amended) Piezoelectric~~ A piezoelectric actuator for controlling a valve unit of a fuel injector ~~as claimed in one of the preceding claims, whereby wherein~~ the piezoelectric actuator ~~(11)~~ has a piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ which is surrounded by a plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~and whereby~~ the piezoelectric element ~~(8)~~ is connected by way of contact wires ~~(6)~~ to two contact pins ~~(5)~~ which are arranged at the outer edge of the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~, ~~characterized in that and~~ wherein the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~ is formed as a one-piece hollow body and that on an upper and a lower end face ~~(10)~~ the plastic sleeve ~~(1)~~ has integrated detent connections ~~(2)~~ by means of which the contact pins ~~(5)~~ ~~can~~ are ~~be~~ fixed in their position.

12. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein an upper pin mount is provided on the outer edge of the sleeve and the upper pin mount has a wedge-shaped insertion aid by means of which the contact pin can be inserted sideways into the pin mount to lock into position.

13. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has a support and the support secures the contact pin against pressure from above.

14. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has a guide aid by means of which the contact pin can be inserted sideways into the sleeve.

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15. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein a lower pin mount has an arresting element, which preferably takes the form of a burl and thereby prevents the lower end of the contact pin from falling out of the guide aid.

16. (NEW) A piezoelectric actuator according to claim 11, wherein the detent connection for the contact pin is designed to be releasable.

17. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein the detent connections for the contact pin are designed to be non-releasable.

18. (NEW) A method according to claim 1, wherein, the sleeve is a plastic sleeve.